



Connecticut Department of Social Services
NEWS RELEASE

Media contact: David Dearborn, 860-424-5024
Page 1 of 1

May 1, 2007

State Seeks Input on Plans, Services
Child Care Public Hearings Begin May 3

HARTFORD--A statewide series of public hearings on the future of child care services in Connecticut will begin Thursday, May 3, at the Visiting Nurse Association in Waterford.

The state is preparing a comprehensive child care plan to access federal funds and guide programs and services over the next two years. Families and providers will have the opportunity to comment on the plan at the hearings.

"As lead state agency for child care services, the Department of Social Services (DSS) is seeking wide input and participation in the child care planning process," Commissioner Michael P. Starkowski said. "We encourage parents, providers, advocates and all others interested in child care services to become involved."

The draft plan is available to review by visiting the DSS website at www.dss.state.ct.us and scrolling down to Child Care and Development Fund Draft Plan. Comments can be submitted via the website or in person at one of the public hearings.

The state uses federal child care funds to support the child care needs of limited-income families and professional needs of child care providers. The child care plan presents various strategies to work with state and local partners to increase professional development opportunities, early learning standards, wage enhancements and other services to support the child care field.

The schedule of public hearings follows:

- **Waterford - Thursday, May 3** - 4 to 7 p.m. at Visiting Nurse Assn. of Southeastern Connecticut, 403 North Frontage Rd, Waterford; local site contact: (860) 444-1111
- **Hamden - Wednesday, May 16** - 4 to 7 p.m. at Connecticut Charts-a-Course, 2321 Whitney Avenue, Hamden; local site contact: (800) 832-7784
- **Hartford - Wednesday, May 23** - noon to 2 p.m. at Community Renewal Team, 555 Windsor Street, Hartford; local site contact: (860) 560-5600
- **Waterbury - Thursday, May 24** - 4 to 7 p.m. at New Opportunities, Inc., auditorium, 232 N.Elm Street, Waterbury; local site contact: (203) 759-0841
- **Norwalk - Monday, June 18** - 4 to 7 p.m. at Stepping Stones Museum, 303 West Avenue, Norwalk; local site contact: (203) 899-0606.

The public can also get further information by calling the Department of Social Services' Child Care Team at 1-800-811-6141 (press option 6). --END--